

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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*Office of the Governor*



**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1419**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority desire to protect, grow, and diversify defense and national security as an economic driver for Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority desire to increase the synergistic relationship among military, government, and private sector partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is home to strategic military infrastructure and assets; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has a strong private sector industrial base of defense contractors and a robust supply chain of subcontractors and suppliers; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has a strong concentration of engineers, researchers, and scientists located at research universities and defense research labs and focused on the development of new innovations and technologies for defense and commercial applications:

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Mississippi Defense Initiative Task Force is created to provide expertise for the development of a comprehensive economic development master plan that will focus on strengthening the defense industry of existing and new contractors, leveraging public-private partnerships to maximize military assets, growing a technically-skilled workforce, improving the quality-of-life for military communities, and expanding research and development collaborations.
2. The Mississippi Defense Initiative Task Force shall be advisory in nature and shall be composed of a Chairman and such other members that the Governor deems necessary.
3. The Mississippi Defense Initiative Task Force shall meet periodically at the call of the Chairman to create an economic development master plan for Mississippi that shall include:
  - a. Cataloging existing assets and investments in the area of defense and identifying existing strengths and weaknesses with a recommended comprehensive strategy to bring the state into regional, national, and international competitiveness in this area;
  - b. Establishing a tangible and achievable roadmap to build capacity on national defense, defense diversification, and defense technologies;

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Mississippi Defense Initiative Task Force shall provide to the Governor a written economic development master plan incorporating the mandates of this Executive Order by March 15, 2019.

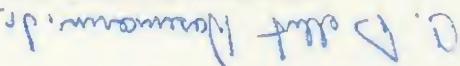
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** in the City of Jackson, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.



PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:



C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.  
SECRETARY OF STATE